

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUENOS 00343 192022Z

67

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

/062 W

----- 038928

R 191828Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4179

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 0343

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AR, US, UK

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND ON OUSTER OF FONMIN ARAUZ CASTEX

REF: BUENOS AIRES 0269

1. OVER THE WEEKEND THERE WAS SOME SPECULATION IN THE PRESS THAT MRS. PERON'S DECISION TO OUST FONMIN ARAUZ CASTEX RESULTED FROM HER UNHAPPINESS OVER HIS HANDLING OF THE MALVINAS CRISIS (SEE SEPTEL). THIS MAY HAVE BEEN A MINOR FACTOR, BUT CLEARLY IT WAS NOT THE DETERMINING ONE. ARAUZ CASTEX'S FATE WAS SEALED BY THE FACT THAT HE IS A POLITICAL ALLY OF ROBLEDO AND A LUDER APPOINTEE.

2. INTERESTINGLY, IT NOW APPEARS THAT HE MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN A VICTIM OF EX-FONMIN ALBERTO VIGNES' WELL KNOWN THIRST TO AVENGE HIMSELF AGAINST THOSE HE BELIEVES TO HAVE WRONGED HIM. ON JAN 14 ONE OF VIGNES' STAFF AIDES INFORMED POL COUNS THAT EX-FONMIN VIGNES WAS MAKING SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS AGAINST ARAUZ CASTEX. THESE ALLEGATIONS HAD TO DO PRINCIPALLY WITH SO-CALLED "REEMERGENCE OF COMMUNISTS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY." AIDE SAID POL COUNS OF COURSE WAS WELL AWARE THAT THESE CHARGES WERE NOT TRUE. ARAUZ CASTEX HAD INDEED REINSTATED SEVERAL OFFICIALS WHO HAD BEEN UNJUSTLY AND ARBITRARILY FIRED BY VIGNES, BUT NONE OF THESE OFFICIALS COULD IN ANY WAY BE DESCRIBED AS MARXIST
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUENOS 00343 192022Z

OR EVEN AS LEFTIST. AIDE THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT ARAUZ CASTEX

WAS VERY DISTURBED BY FACT THAT VIGNES WAS INVOKING NAME OF SECY KISSINGER IN MAKING THESE CHARGES, AND HAD SUGGESTED TO MRS. PERON THAT USG WAS VERY DISTURBED BY REINSTATEMENT OF "COMMUNISTS" IN FOREIGN MINISTRY.

2. POL COUNS POINTED OUT THAT USG HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH VIGNES' ALLEGATIONS, AND THAT NEITHER EMBASSY NOR SECY OF STATE KISSINGER HAD ANY CONTACT WITH EX-FONMIN VIGNES FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. POL COUNS SAID HE COULD ASSURE AIDE THAT IF VIGNES WAS INDEED INVOKING NAME OF SECY KISSINGER, HE WAS DOING SO ON HIS OWN. IT EQUALLY CLEAR, HE WENT ON, THAT USG COULD NOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY SUCH UNAUTHORIZED STATEMENTS ON VIGNES' PART. USG WANTED BEST POSSIBLE RELATIONS WITH GOA, AND WOULD DEAL ON EQUAL BASIS WITH WHOMEVER LEGITIMATE AUTHORITIES APPOINTED AS FONMIN.

3. PRESS REPORTS OVER WEEKEND HAVE CONFIRMED (A) THAT VIGNES HAS INDEED REEMERGED AS ONE OF MRS. PERON'S ADVISERS (SEE SEPTTEL), AND (B) THAT PRIOR TO LAST WEEK'S CABINET CHANGES VIGNES HAD MADE CHARGES IN THE CASA ROSADA CONCERNING WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS REINSTATEMENT OF COMMUNISTS IN THE FONMINISTRY. THERE IS NO INDICATION IN THE PRESS OR FROM OTHER SOURCES, HOWEVER, THAT VIGNES DID IN FACT INVOKE SECY KISSINGER'S NAME IN MAKING THESE CHARGES. THE CHARGES THEMSELVES MAY HAVE BEEN A NAIL IN ARAUZ CASTEX'S COFFIN, BUT THEY CLEARLY WERE NOT THE BASIC CAUSE OF HIS POLITICAL DEMISE WHICH WAS, AS STATED ABOVE, HIS ASSOCIATION WITH ROBLEDO AND LUDER.
BEAL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, PERSONNEL SEPARATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BUENOS00343
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760020-0457
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760145/aaaabnrx.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BUENOS AIRES 269
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUL 2004 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <26 OCT 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND ON OUSTER OF FONMIN ARAUZ CASTEX
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, AR, US, UK, (ARAUZ CASTEX, MANUEL G L)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006